

Downtown trash collection to get artistic

New garbage receptacles to include decorated doors

By Katherine Lacaze
Seaside Signal

These trash cans almost look too good to put trash in. Artistically decorated receptacles are the newest effort by the Seaside Public Works Department to make the downtown cleaner and more attractive.

The project should wind up in the spring, when 43 new receptacles are installed on Broadway and those currently on the street get rotated elsewhere downtown, bringing the total to about 250 receptacles, Public Works Director Dale McDowell said.

McDowell is gathering ideas for how to make the garbage receptacles more visually appealing. At the weekly Seaside Downtown Development Association meeting Dec. 31, Executive Director Tita Montero shared photos of examples for the style of art that could be used.

The downtown association is partnering on the project and donated \$1,500 to purchase additional collection cans for the inside of the receptacles so the cans can be removed and washed more frequently, Montero said.



KATHERINE LACAZE PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

The Seaside Public Works Department provided the Seaside Downtown Development Association with a few samples of potential artwork styles to be used for the new garbage receptacles to be placed on Broadway in the spring.

Each new receptacle will cost about \$650 apiece, or closer to \$800 apiece including shipping and handling, McDowell said. Adjacent ash urns, under consideration, would cost an additional \$129.

The downtown association has discussed the need for more garbage receptacles on several occasions during the past few years.

"We all know that regular trash removal and keeping the containers as clean as possible are also major factors influencing the opinion that residents and visitors

have about our downtown," Montero said.

McDowell said City Manager Mark Winstanley, who personally picks up trash downtown, also recognized the need and approved the project.

Especially on busy days during the summer, the downtown trash cans tend to fill — and overflow — quicker than they are emptied by the Public Works Department.

"We get so busy in the summertime," McDowell said. "The crew has a hard time keeping up because there are so many people."

It has been several years since the downtown area got more trash cans. McDowell hopes, by adding more receptacles, they will not fill as quickly and people will be more incentivized to throw away their garbage rather than littering.

While researching a good model, McDowell considered a few important aspects of the receptacles: they need to have side doors for removing trash, to prevent injuries from city employees pulling full, heavy trash bags out vertically; the doors must lockable and have a finish for

a long life; and the external parts of the receptacles must be made of cement so they can be power-washed.

The model selected, manufactured by Gilmore-Kramer, has a life expectancy of about 10 years and the finish should last about three years.

The artwork could be painted on the doors by students or other community members or it could be vinyl decals, which are easy to clean and can be replaced.

"No two have to be the same," McDowell said.

He still is taking input on the art aspect, but the department will not use advertisements. The new receptacles will be put along Broadway, "because we want the artwork there," McDowell said, and the others will be moved to different locations downtown.

"We'll kind of rotate our stock a little bit," he said.

Once the department gauges how the public response to the new look, McDowell can decide if they will continue the trend of using artwork to spruce up the downtown.

"We're just trying to step it up a little bit," he said. He likes the samples he has researched so far. "For a garbage can, they look really doggone good."

He wants everyone on the same page before ordering the receptacles, but he plans to get them installed before spring break.

Montero said the association looks forward "to the culmination of this goal."

To give input to McDowell, email dmcdowell@cityofseaside.us or call (503) 738-5112.

Museum seeks 'new people' to carry on

Saltmakers from Page 1A

Tucker said the event's "lack of authenticity" and inability to meet "National Park Service standards for first-person interpretation" were the main reasons the government agency terminated its involvement.

The program is also expensive, especially since it is not held on National Park Service property, Tucker said. Faced with dwindling budgets, the agency cannot afford to use human resources and funds to be a partner for the event.

Program fails to meet 'standards'

In January 1806, after the Corps of Discovery settled into Fort Clatsop, a detachment came down to Seaside with Capt. William Clark to make salt to preserve food for the winter and the trip back to the United States. "The Saltmakers Return to Seaside" recreated the experience, providing an interactive opportunity for people to learn about the explorers. The museum, in partnership with the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, started the program in 2001. The presentation was held on the beach in Seaside and typically attracted about 2,000 people a year.

"First-person interpretation is extremely difficult, and it is rarely done within the National Park Service because it takes historically accurate interpreters to do the programming," Tucker said.

Volunteer program manager and park ranger Sally Freeman agreed, adding the National Park Service needs interpreters who resemble the historical figures and can accurately portray them through training and research.

"It's a huge challenge," she said.

The program

Until last year, the museum contracted with in-

terpreters from the Pacific Northwest Living Historians. They dressed in period costume to portray members of the expedition as they made salt from seawater for visitors over a 48-hour time period. Technically the interpreters volunteered for the park service, though, so they could fall under the agency's liability insurance. The arrangement was "an awkward piece" that should have been identified as problematic 10 years ago "and wasn't," Tucker said.

The event was designed so visitors would feel they actually were entering the Corps of Discovery's encampment in 1806. They could even barter with time period-appropriate items.

"We asked people to transport themselves and their minds to the camp," Freeman said.

However, it was determined through discussions last year that the Pacific Northwest Living Historians no longer could physically "represent the Corps of Discovery in the first-person" in a historically accurate way and had not recruited new members to step into those roles, Tucker said.

Last year, the program turned into a one-day event, and National Park Service rangers provided a third-person representation, with interpreters dressed in period costume but not trying to play specific historical figures, Freeman said.

The National Park Service invited the Pacific Northwest Living Historians to participate in the third-person interpretation event, but they declined.

"It seemed like it went just as well that way," Freeman said.

The agency does not plan to continue as a partner for The Saltmakers Return, even as a third-person interpretive event, Tucker said.

"It's too cost-prohibitive for a one-day program,"



SUBMITTED PHOTO/SEASIDE SIGNAL

A living historian at the 2013 Saltmakers Return event.

he said, adding the park also discontinued its own first-person living history program, called "Wintering Over," held annually the weekend before Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Seeking new options

The national park will seek opportunities to work with the museum on cost-effective programs that highlight Seaside's historical significance and connection to the Corps of Discovery expedition.

Without going through the National Park Service, the Seaside Museum cannot provide liability insurance for volunteers for an event like the Saltmakers, Montero said. Additionally, the museum's own volunteer population is aging, she said.

"This program needs new people" if it's going to continue, said Monte-

ro, who also serves on the Seaside City Council. "It's a very labor-intensive program."

Rather than letting the program struggle and "slide downhill slowly," the museum board decided "it's much better in our mind to stop and regroup," Montero said.

To reach a decision about the event's long-term continuation, the museum board is inviting community organizations and residents to participate in a series of discussions regarding the requirements, processes and possibilities for resuming the program in 2017.

"We want to open the door for anybody to join with us and be part of the whole thing," Montero said.

People interested in participating can call 503-738-7065 or visit the museum at 570 Necanicum Drive.

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